DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive the amendment filed on 6/17/2009. Claims 29-48 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

>   (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public
>   use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United
>   States.

2.   Claims 29-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by <u>Excel</u>

(Microsoft® Excel 2000, Copyright (c) 1985-1999 Microsoft Corp.)

Claim 29: <u>Excel</u> discloses a grid canvas, comprising

  a. a canvas (Fig. 5: white surface area);

  b. a gridline on the canvas (Fig. 5: gridline between B and C), wherein the gridline is

      one of a plurality of components (Fig. 5: cells, tabs, etc.) on the canvas;

  c. a user-interface element (an element with which a user can interface (i.e.

      interact) Fig. 5: box) that spans multiple cells on the canvas, wherein the user-

      interface element is one of the plurality of components on the canvas, and

      wherein

  d. a property (i.e. location of the gridline on the canvas as explicitly shown by the

      Width: 14.00 (103 pixels), See Fig. 8) set (i.e. set by the user, such as by moving

the gridline, Fig. 6-8) for the gridline defines a relationship (e.g. geometric) of the

gridline to the user-interface element on the canvas (Fig. 7),

e. a layout (i.e. arrangement, taking up more or less space on the canvas, Fig. 6-8)

of the user-interface element on the canvas is determined by the property set for

the gridline (moving the gridline to the left as shown in Fig. 8, minimizes the user

interface element, thereby changing its layout on the canvas), and

f. the relationship is maintained between the gridline and the user-interface

element (Fig. 6-8.)

Claim 30: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the gridline is

defined by at least one of: a row; a column; or at least one row and at least one column

(Fig. 5.)

Claim 31: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 30, wherein the row or the

column are, respectively, a virtual row or virtual column (Fig. 5.)

Claim 32: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, further comprising a

gridline bounding box (Fig. 5, bolded box) that includes the element.

Claim 33: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 32, wherein the gridline

bounding box comprises a plurality of rows (Fig. 5, 2-5) and columns (Fig. 1, B-C) that

contain the user-interface element.

Claim 34: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 32, further comprising margin settings within the gridline bounding box for providing desired offsets to the user-interface element (Fig. 9.)

Claim 35: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein a gridline defines a border of the canvas (Fig. 5.)

Claim 36: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the relationship of the gridline to the user-interface element on the canvas is defined as an explicit value (Fig. 8 Width: 14.00 (103 pixels).)

Claim 37: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the relationship of the gridline to the user-interface element on the canvas is defined as an auto value (the width of cells (elements) is an auto default of 64 pixels wide; Fig. 5.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 38-48 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Excel.

Claim 38: <u>Excel</u> discloses a method for creating a grid canvas, comprising

a. identifying a canvas (Fig. 5: white surface area. Identification (by Excel) is inherent in order to display the program on the display as shown);

b. defining a virtual gridline (Fig. 5: gridline between B and C) on the canvas, wherein the virtual gridline is one of a plurality of components (Fig. 5: cells, tabs, etc.) on the canvas;

c. identifying a user-interface element (an element with which a user can interface (i.e. interact) Fig. 5: box) that spans multiple cells on the canvas, wherein the user-interface element is one of the plurality of components on the canvas and may be placed on the canvas at least one of:

    a. before the virtual gridline is defined, or

    b. after the virtual gridline is defined (Fig. 5, the element was placed after the default virtual gridline in displayed in Excel on startup);

d. identifying a property (i.e. location of the gridline on the canvas as explicitly shown by the Width: 14.00 (103 pixels), See Fig. 7) set (i.e. set by the user, such as by moving the gridline, Fig. 6-8) for the virtual gridline, wherein the property defines a relationship (e.g. geometric, See Fig. 7) of the virtual gridline to the user-interface element on the canvas;

e. changing a property of at least one of: the canvas, or the at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas (e.g. Fig. 1: expanding cell D10); and

   f.   determining a layout (i.e. arrangement, taking up more or less space on the

       canvas, Fig. 6-8) of the user-interface element on the canvas, wherein the layout

       of the user-interface element is determined by the property set for the gridline

       (moving the gridline to the left as shown in Fig. 8, minimizes the user interface

       element, thereby changing its layout on the canvas);

   g. maintaining the relationship of the virtual gridline to the user-interface element on

       the canvas (Fig. 1,) wherein the relationship is bi-directional, and:

          a. moving the gridline will resize the user-interface element (Fig. 6-8.)

       However, Excel does not explicitly disclose wherein, resizing the user-interface

element will move the gridline. Excel does disclose that the resizing of the user-interface

element would move a gridline, such as shown in Fig. 9 (Fig. 7: 70, Fig. 10; changing

the size via the "Size" panel, moves the gridlines surrounding the element

correspondingly.) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to combine the two teachings in Excel in a

fashion that the virtual gridline (such as one between columns B and C) would move in

accordance with the changes in the element size. One would have been motivated to

combine the teachings of Excel so as to dynamically and continuously encapsulate the

element within the cell as the element and/or gridline is changed.

Claim 39: Excel discloses the method according to claim 38, wherein the step of

identifying a relationship of the virtual gridline to the user-interface element on the

canvas is repeated for a plurality of virtual gridlines and a plurality of user-interface

elements (Fig. 1. It is inherent that a plurality of elements can be placed on the canvas.

Identification (by Excel) is inherent in order to display the program on the display as

shown.)

Claim 40: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding

a virtual gridline dynamically (i.e. continuously) to the canvas (Fig. 5: changes in the

cells cause dynamic updating of gridlines.)

Claim 41: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising:

overlaying a grid on the canvas (Fig. 5), wherein the grid comprises a plurality of virtual

gridlines (Fig. 5); identifying a relationship (Fig. 5: position of the gridline to the

boundary of the element) of at least one of the plurality of virtual gridlines to at least one

of the plurality of components on the canvas.

Claim 42: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding

a component on the grid (Fig. 1. It is inherent that a plurality of additional components

can be placed on the canvas, such as the "2+2" element.)

Claim 43: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising: placing

the virtual gridline on the canvas according to a predetermined relationship of the virtual

gridline to at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas (gridline is placed to

outline the cells: Fig. 1.)

Claim 44: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising placing the virtual gridline on the canvas (selection of "Gridlines" options overlays a grid, Fig. 2); identifying a relationship of the virtual gridline to at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas according to the placement of the gridline on the canvas (Fig. 1: position of the gridline to the boundary of the element.)

Claim 45: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding a component to the canvas; maintaining the relationship of the virtual gridline to the element on the canvas (Fig. 1: It is inherent that a plurality of additional components can be placed on the canvas, such as the "2+2" element.)

Claim 46: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, wherein the virtual gridline is defined by a plurality of rows and columns (Fig. 5) that define a plurality of virtual cells (Fig. 1: A1-H25), and at least one of the plurality of components (Fig. 3: "USPTO banner") spans a plurality of the virtual cells (Fig. 3: B14-H16.)

Claim 47: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method of claim 46, further comprising adding a component to the canvas, wherein the added component inhabits at least one of the same cells of the plurality of virtual cells inhabited by the at least one of the plurality of components (Fig. 4.)

Claim 48: Excel discloses the method of claim 38, further comprising determining a

virtual gridline bounding box for the element (Fig. 5: bolded box.)

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed 6/17/2009 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive.

6.   Applicant argues that a property set in Excel is for an image, and not for the

gridline, and as such, setting properties from the perspective of the gridline is not the

same as setting a property from the perspective of an image, or user interface element

(as claimed.) The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

        Fig. 7 of Excel is a dialog window for setting certain properties (such as object

positioning) of user interface element such as an image. Fig. 8 illustrates another

different property, such as the width of 103 pixels in relation to the gridline, which is not

an image. The property of the gridline as taught in Fig. 8 of Excel, (i.e. the position of

the gridline on the canvas as further depicted by the Width of 103 pixel, or 103 pixels

from the gridline forming the A column) identifies a relationship of the gridline to the user

interface element, such that changing the horizontal position (i.e. the width) of the

gridline has a corresponding effect on the user interface element.

        Applicant's further argument that resizing of the image after the steps as shown

in Figures with regard to Excel does not produce a "bi-directional" relationship is not

persuasive as such a limitation is not recited in claim 29.

With respect to claim 38, Applicant argues that Excel does not teach or address in the Office Action a "bi-directional" relationship as claimed. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. The last paragraph of the rejection of claim 38 lays out an obvious type rejection with respect to the second aspect of a bi-directional relationship, "movement of a gridline upon resizing of the image":

> However, _Excel_ does not explicitly disclose wherein, resizing the user-interface element will move the gridline. _Excel_ does disclose that the resizing of the user-interface element would move a gridline, such as shown in Fig. 9 (Fig. 7: 70, Fig. 10; changing the size via the "Size" panel, moves the gridlines surrounding the element correspondingly.) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the two teachings in _Excel_ in a fashion that the virtual gridline (such as one between columns B and C) would move in accordance with the changes in the element size. One would have been motivated to combine the teachings of _Excel_ so as to dynamically and continuously encapsulate the element within the cell as the element and/or gridline is changed.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE
MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not
mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later
than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Andrew Belousov whose telephone number is (571)
270-1695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (alternate Fri off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number
for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published
applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status
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Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call

800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AB   /Steven P Sax/
                                                      Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174

10/21/2009